



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,999	10/24/2001	Derek K. Gauger	GDK-100-B	9338
7590 YOUNG & BASILE, P.C. Suite 624 3001 West Big Beaver Road Troy, MI 48084-3107		12/27/2006	EXAMINER VIG, NAresh	
			ART UNIT 3629	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
31 DAYS	12/27/2006	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/039,999	GAUGER, DEREK K.	
	Examiner Naresh Vig	Art Unit 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 – 6, 9 – 10, 12 – 14, 34, 41 and 43 – 51 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1 – 6, 9 – 10, 12 – 14, 34, 41 and 43 – 51 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is in reference to information received 30 May 2006. Addition on new claims 43 – 51 is acknowledged. Addition of new claims 4 – 51 is acknowledged. Claims 1 – 6, 9 – 10, 12 – 14, 34, 41 and 43 – 51 are pending for examination.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1 – 6, 9, 34 and 41, drawn to a computerized method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system; defining authorized individuals; creating an electronic collaboration center in one of the modules on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project; accepting input information at the collaboration center from authorized individuals to facilitate resolution of a project issue; notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration purpose; using bi-directional electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules; forwarding one of a question and an issue involving at least one element of the collaboration to be decided by all authorized project individuals; allowing an authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail

reply; accepting votes of authorized individuals for the issue on at least one element of the collaboration; making a decision based in part on the votes, and displaying the results of the vote, wherein collaboration center has capability of receiving documents attached to authorized individual responses, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

- II. Claims 10 and 43 – 45, drawn to computerized method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system; defining authorized individuals; linking at least two of the information modules for bi-directional data interchange between each module; providing a project plan having a plurality of items; linking each item to a set of tasks; linking any item and task to an issue describing a problem and a call for action; linking all of the information and actions associated with the Issue to the tasks and the project plan item. Bi-directional electronic mail interaction is used between authorized individuals and the information modules for allowing an authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply, and, the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by updating the information in the appropriate information module, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

Art Unit: 3629

III. Claims 12, 13 and 46 – 48, drawn to computerized method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system; defining authorized individuals; defining of plurality of organizational categories; issuing of a request for information; forwarding the request for information to a designated request recipient; designated request recipient is provided capability of one of replying directly to a requestor of the request for information, delegating the request for information to a designated delegate recipient with the capability for the designated delegate recipient to respond directly to a requestor of the request for information; reviewing the response from the designated delegate recipient prior to delivering the response to the requestor. Bi-directional electronic mail is used for interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules wherein authorized user are provided capability to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply, and, the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by updating the conformation in the appropriate information module, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

IV. Claims 14 and 49 – 51, drawn to computerized method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system; defining authorized individuals; defining of plurality of organizational categories;

issuing a request for project data review by an authorized project individual; designating a plurality of designated recipients of the review request by an authorized individual; providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series-from all of the designated delegated recipients; providing for the delivery of the review request to the designated recipients in one of: directly in parallel providing each of the designated recipients with the capability of one of replying to the review request directly, delegating the review request to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to a requestor of the request for review, and delegating the request for review to a designated recipient with the designated recipient's response routed to the designated recipient for review prior to delivery to the requestor; serially delegating the review request to a next designated recipient having the same reply and delegating options to deliver a reply to requestor. Bi-directional electronic mail is provided for interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules, wherein authorized users respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply; and, the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by updating the conformation in the appropriate information module, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I – IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case,

subcombination I has separate utility such as creating an electronic collaboration center in one of the modules on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project; forwarding one of a question and an issue involving at least one element of the collaboration to be decided by all authorized project individuals; accepting votes of authorized individuals for the issue on at least one element of the collaboration; making a decision based in part on the votes, and displaying the results of the vote, wherein collaboration center has capability of receiving documents attached to authorized individual responses.

Subcombination II has separate utility such as linking at least two of the information modules for bi-directional data interchange between each module; providing a project plan having a plurality of items; linking each item to a set of tasks; linking any item and task to an issue describing a problem and a call for action; linking all of the information and actions associated with the Issue to the tasks and the project plan item. information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information

module by updating the information in the appropriate information module, classified.

Subcombination III has separate utility such as issuing of a request for information; forwarding the request for information to a designated request recipient; designated request recipient is provided capability of one of replying directly to a requestor of the request for information, delegating the request for information to a designated delegate recipient with the capability for the designated delegate recipient to respond directly to a requestor of the request for information; reviewing the response from the designated delegate recipient prior to delivering the response to the requestor; updating the conformation in the appropriate information module.

Subcombination IV has separate utility such as issuing a request for project data review by an authorized project individual; designating a plurality of designated recipients; providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the designated delegated recipients; providing for the delivery of the review request to the designated recipients in one of: directly in parallel providing each of the designated recipients; serially delegating the review request to a next designated recipient having the same reply and delegating options to deliver a reply to requestor.

Art Unit: 3629

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A telephone interview was not conducted due to complexity of the restriction requirement and since the examiner knows from past experience that an election will not be made by telephone. (see MPEP 812.01)

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of

Art Unit: 3629

record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is (571) 272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 6:00 (Wednesday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Naresh Vig
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

December 21, 2006